

Message Text

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42

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 AGR-05 OC-05

CCO-00 DOTE-00 FMC-01 CG-00 COA-01 DLOS-03 AID-05

IGA-01 NIC-01 /088 W

----- 036392

R 151045Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6310

INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 0683

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, IN

SUBJECT: PORT STRIKE

REF: NEW DELHI 0065

1. SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT MINISTER KAMALAPATI TRIPATHI HAS CALLED MEETING JANUARY 15 OF LABOR AND MANAGEMENT REPRESENTATIVES IN EFFORT AVERT ALL INDIA PORT STRIKE CALLED FOR JANUARY 16.

STRIKE HAS SUPPORT

OF ALL MAJOR DOCK WORKERS UNIONS, SOME OF WHOM REPORTEDLY ARE COLLECTING STRIKE FUNDS. AS IN PAST CASES OF THREATENED STRIKES, SOME PORTS ARE MOVING SHIPS FROM PIERS INTO THE STREAM.

LABOR'S MAJOR DEMAND

IS FOR AN INTERIM WAGE INCREASE OF RS. 100 PER MONTH, PENDING FULL REVISION OF DOCKERS' WAGE STRUCTURE. ACCORDING TO PRESIDENT OF COCHIN DOCK WORKERS UNION, GOI HAS ALREADY AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO AN INTERIM INCREASE. OUTSTANDING ISSUE SAID TO BE LABOR'S

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REFUSAL TO ACCEPT AUTHORITY OF GOI-APPOINTED WAGE REVISION

COMMITTEE IN LIEU OF DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS WITH PORT MANAGEMENT.
(LABOR HAS NO REPRESENTATION ON THIS THREE MAN COMMITTEE).

2. COMMENT: ANY CLOSURE OF PORTS WOULD BE A SERIOUS BLOW TO THE ECONOMY, WHICH COULD ALSO HAVE SERIOUS POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS, IF GOOD GRAIN IMPORTS ARE DELAYED FOR AN EXTENDED PERIOD. HOWEVER, STRIKES THREATENED BY THE DOCK WORKERS IN THE PAST HAVE BEEN SETTLED AT THE LAST MOMENT, AND WE BELIEVE THERE IS LIKELIHOOD THAT SOLUTION WILL BE FOUND TO ENABLE UNIONS TO STAY THEIR STRIKE CALL. INSISTENCE OF LABOR ON THE RIGHT TO NEGOTIATE WITH MANAGEMENT WITHOUT GOVERNMENT INTERFERENCE IS A THEME WHICH HAS NOT BEEN STRESSED IN INDIAN INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS, BUT WHICH SEEMS TO BE GAINING GREATER CURRENCY AS BOTH MANAGEMENT AND LABOR INCREASINGLY FIND THAT GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION IS NOT HELPFUL OVER THE LONG RUN.
SCHNEIDER

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Message Attributes

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